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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1910.

## Democratic Activity.

Hope, according to the poet, springs  
eternal in the human breast. The poetic  
assertion applies with especial fitness  
to the Democratic party. The committee  
of that political organization in New York  
State is to meet this week for the pur-  
pose of taking steps to rehabilitate and  
reorganize the party and advance its  
interests. Each committeeman is the  
subject of an appeal to give the meet-  
ing thoughtful consideration in order  
that "Democrats throughout the State  
may enter upon the campaign with re-  
newed faith in the principles of the party  
and with new courage to meet political  
conditions now confronting the people of  
the great State of New York."

Battered by defeat and almost dispirited  
by internal dissensions, the Democrats,  
nevertheless, come up smiling for another  
contest. Here in Washington they pro-  
pose a gathering of national significance  
and interest on Jefferson's birthday.  
Once again they will listen to rosy  
prophecies and indulge in dreams of vic-  
tory. They refuse to be downcast or  
disheartened.

This vitality of the Democratic party is  
a good thing for the country. It is a  
factor with which the Republicans must  
always reckon, especially as the growth  
of independence in thought and action  
adds to the number of voters who are  
guided by conditions and not by partisan  
ties. Besides this, Democratic activity  
prevents the formation of new parties,  
with all their attendant evils.

Democracy and defeat have been synon-  
ymous terms for many years. It is  
evident, however, that the party is gird-  
ing up its loins for another struggle.

## Offering a Park Below Cost.

When "Enfant laid out the National  
Capital he provided for parks and reser-  
vations. Within the boundaries of his plan,  
the city is admirably equipped in this  
regard. Even his imagination and fore-  
sight did not, however, anticipate the  
time when Washington would spread far  
beyond the limits which he prescribed.  
Falling to look forward to this growth,  
he naturally did not provide for the ex-  
tension of the park system, and as a re-  
sult, those sections of the District which  
have developed in the last quarter of  
a century are lacking in open spaces.

This serious omission has been fully  
recognized everywhere except in Con-  
gress.

Among the sections which ought to be  
provided with parks are Georgetown and  
Mount Pleasant. In Georgetown there is  
a plot of ground adorned with splendid  
oak trees which ought to be acquired.  
In Mount Pleasant the need for a park is  
so apparent that the citizens of that  
section are offering to the government a  
triangle of land for less money than it  
cost them in order that at least one  
breathing space may be reserved for all  
time. They bought it to prevent its use  
for business purposes, and they could  
sell it to-day at a profit if they did not  
regard the city's benefit as paramount to  
their personal gain. It would seem as if  
the opportunity which they offer to the  
government is one that ought not to be  
ignored. The Commissioners should bring  
the matter forcibly to the attention of  
Congress and secure favorable action at  
the earliest possible moment.

Incidentally, there are other localities  
wherein parks should be provided. A  
splendid grove of trees at the corner of  
Fourteenth street and Columbia road  
ought to be saved to the city, and in every  
part of the District spaces should be set  
aside. Some of these days the law-  
makers will realize that procrastination  
has proven costly. There never will be  
a period in the history of the National  
Capital when land for public parks can  
be purchased for less money than at  
present. Every day's delay in the ac-  
quisition of reservations adds to the bur-  
den which the taxpayer of the future  
must bear.

## Standard of Cadets and Midshipmen.

About the only army personnel legisla-  
tion which stands any chance of enact-  
ment at this session of Congress is that  
which would increase the corps of cadets  
at the Military Academy. This is in the  
line of the policy that there should be a  
greater proportion of army officers com-  
ing from the institution which possesses  
the facilities for training and educating  
young men for duty as commissioned  
officers of the military establishment.  
The bill has been favorably reported  
from the Senate Military Committee, and  
is regarded with favor, it is understood,  
in the House. One of the features cal-  
culated to gain Congressional approval of  
the measure is the fact that it adds to  
the appointments to the credit of Repre-  
sentatives and Senators. At the same  
time it has been disclosed in hearings  
before the House Military Committee that  
not all Representatives and Senators de-  
signate cadets to vacancies which they  
are called upon to fill. Added to that  
neglect is the fact that many of those

who are nominated as "principals" fail  
at the entrance examination, while most  
of the "alternates" do not present them-  
selves, on the theory that the principals  
are likely to pass the examination. The  
result has been that, after the entrance  
examination in January, there were no  
less than 150 vacancies, a quite unprece-  
dented number. While it would appear  
that the duty of the military authorities  
might very well be applied to filling  
these vacancies, it is, at the same time,  
considered desirable to add to the num-  
ber of cadships. A special examina-  
tion of candidates is to be held this  
week in the hope that most of the exist-  
ing vacancies will be filled.

The fact that so many vacancies exist  
by reason of the failure of candidates to  
pass the entrance examination at  
West Point and the circumstance of the  
enforced resignation of midshipmen at  
the Naval Academy for deficiency in  
the recent semi-annual examinations  
have aroused the apprehension in Con-  
gress, it is said, that these examinations  
are too severe. The suggestion that  
there shall be interference with acade-  
mic policy in this particular must be  
intolerable to the authorities at West  
Point and Annapolis, who ought to be  
intrusted with the responsibility of de-  
termining the character and scope of  
entrance and other examinations cal-  
culated to demonstrate individual fitness  
of cadets and midshipmen. The Con-  
gressional interference in behalf of these  
students would be more harmful than  
almost anything Congress could under-  
take on the mistaken notion of defending  
the cadets and midshipmen from the ex-  
actions of examination. The standard to  
which these students attain must neces-  
sarily be left to the academic authorities,  
regardless of the appeal to sympathy  
which disallows actually invoke.

## Speaker Roosevelt?

Mr. J. Hampton Moore has his ideas,  
more or less pronounced, perhaps, touch-  
ing the prospect of a Speaker Theodore  
Roosevelt in the near future.

Said Mr. Moore, addressing some citi-  
zens of the First New York Congressional  
district recently:

"I have heard a rumor that when your most  
distinguished citizen comes back from Africa, my good  
friend, Congressman Cook, your representative at  
Washington, will voluntarily resign in order that one  
of our greatest Presidents may preside over one  
of the people's branches of the National Legislature. I hope  
you will not allow this to come to pass. Congress  
wants to do business and it wants to keep Cook  
just where he is."

Not, we take it, that Mr. Moore loves  
Caesar less, but that he loves Mr. Cook  
more!

Why, however, should we not have Mr.  
Cook in Congress—a thoroughly com-  
mendable idea, so far as we can see—and  
a Speaker Roosevelt also? The Con-  
stitution of the United States does not  
say specifically that the Speaker shall be  
a member of the House. It merely  
prescribes that the House shall elect a  
Speaker. It may go to Kalamazoo, Kan-  
kakee, or Oyster Bay for its presiding  
officer, so far as the exact language of  
the Constitution is concerned. Moreover,  
we strenuously suspect that no one would  
be disposed to argue the case, once Mr.  
Roosevelt had been sworn in, anyway.

As for Washington—well, we believe  
Washington would welcome a Speaker  
Roosevelt with arms wide open and  
hearts attuned to gladness and exceed-  
ing joy! Whatever one may think of Mr.  
Roosevelt—and those who think ill of him  
are in the minority—he is a powerfully  
picturesque individual and a source of  
never-ending delight to those who rejoice  
to see things happen. If, in the past,  
there was nothing in particular going on,  
it was as sure as it could be that T. R.  
stood willing always to start something!

Regardless of the terror that a pros-  
pective Speaker Roosevelt may strike to  
the hearts of some people, Washington  
probably will all but unanimously resolve  
to push the suggestion along on the the-  
ory that it is a mighty good thing!

When Rostand's "Chanticleer" is pro-  
duced in this country, all the old first-  
night roosters will be on hand, of course.  
Mr. William Waldorf Astor is not yet  
in the House of Lords, which would seem  
a sort of reason for not abolishing it  
just at this time, anyway.

And the jungles shall not look upon his  
like again!

The suggestion that Mississippi refrain  
as long as possible from tacking that  
"ex" onto Senator Gordon's official title  
is rapidly swelling into an all but uni-  
form demand.

Where are the eggs of the yesterdays?  
They are in cold storage now!

Mr. Heyburn has been talking a good  
deal in the Senate of late, but not about  
the civil war; that is, not since—well,  
you know.

The Treasury Department is somewhat  
puzzled to know whether a hen is a bird.  
A department that once decided frog legs  
to be poultry ought not to be at sea  
about the other problem.

The present Republican tariff has been  
abused in a thousand ways, and still  
nobody has yet characterized it as low  
down.

"The farmers of Virginia demand the  
right to make cider," says the Charles-  
ton News and Courier. And to make it  
hard, moreover, presumably!

"An Indiana man has been put in jail  
for having four or five wives," notes the  
watchful Bristol Herald-Courier. He  
probably gave himself up to the authori-  
ties.

Now that the stork is about to visit  
the royal palace in Madrid for the third-  
or is it the fourth—time, perhaps her  
majesty will reconsider her determination  
never to consent to Alfonso's wearing  
whiskers.

Looking back over the years, "Uncle  
Joe" will have to confess that his lot  
on earth might have been worse. Even  
during the late unpleasantness, there ap-  
pears to have been no 5-cent cigar named  
in his honor.

When the Hon. "Gum Shoe" Stone does  
take off his rubbers, however, it appears  
that he wears hob-nailed boots.

It will be rather trying on Africa's  
nerves, of course, to resume being merely  
the Dark Continent.

Brooms and soap both are going up in  
price. Cleanliness being next to godli-

ness, we expect to hear eventually that  
salvation has managed to get off the free  
list.

The country waiter who asks, "How  
will you have your egg, sir?" is no longer  
a joke.

And even if Dr. Cook should come out  
in the open and begin a lecturing tour,  
do not wager your good money that he  
will not ultimately become a millionaire  
Chautauqua attraction.

The high cost of living will play hide  
and seek with that august Senatorial  
committee, mayhap, but at its peril,  
surely!

A New Jersey man has been sent to  
the penitentiary for stealing a ham. This  
is not surprising. The ham belongs ex-  
clusively to the plutocratic class now-  
adays.

Producing a black rose naturally is a  
more commendable undertaking than  
painting a lily, artificially, anyway.

Abdul Hamid's life must be a dreary  
and monotonous thing. His recent at-  
tempt to commit suicide did not get a  
round of applause even from the gal-  
leries.

That Virginian who thinks the gov-  
ernor's staff should consist of 200 colonels  
probably would have some difficulty get-  
ting more than 199 male persons to agree  
with him.

The "Mad Mullah" is on a rampage  
again. We greatly fear this may arouse  
the terrible "Mad Mullah" parodist to  
renewed pernicious activity.

"Either you aren't able to own the roof  
over your head or it leaks," observes the  
New York Press. Or there isn't any  
roof. If one must be a pessimist, he  
should play out the string!

John L. Sullivan, who recently insisted  
that his fighting days are over, has mar-  
ried again. Perhaps John L. has another  
guess coming.

The fishing fever microbe has been seen  
stalking abroad in the neighborhood of  
the Detroit Free Press sanctum. And  
they do say it is a "powful catching"  
germ, moreover!

If good wishes and respectful sympathy  
will avail Senator Tillman anything in  
his derelict illness, he has ours most  
unreservedly.

Senator "Jeff" Davis will be readily ex-  
cused for a good many things he says on  
the floor of the Senate, however, because  
they tend to the discrediting of no one  
other than himself.

The fact that Mr. Peary made some  
mistakes when he first came out of the  
frozen north is a poor excuse upon which  
to hang Congressional refusal to do him  
exact—even overgenerous—justice now.  
Two wrongs never have made, and never  
will make, a right.

## CHAT OF THE FORUM.

## We May Never Know.

From the Atlanta Constitution.  
How would Uncle Joe Cannon look in private life?

## Secretary MacVeagh's Idea.

From the Jackson (Miss.) News.  
Secretary MacVeagh wants baths put in for officials  
at Washington. Immunity?

## After the Round-up.

From the Kansas City Journal.  
La Follette and Briar are about the only un-  
tamed and untamable insurgents left in the corral.

## Mr. Knox as a Villain.

From the Louisville Courier-Journal.  
In Zola's forthcoming book, Philander C. Knox  
stands to figure as the villain who robbed the hero  
of the estate.

## Pie in the Senate.

From the Baltimore Star.  
The price of pie in the Senate restaurant, ac-  
cording to one Senator, is the same as it was twenty  
years ago. How about in the Senate itself?

## It Seems Scarcely Possible.

From the Chicago Star.  
It might be added that all of the progressive leg-  
islation enacted during the last seven years has been  
forced through Congress over Mr. Cannon's protest.

## First-class Space Fillers.

From the St. Louis Times.  
Utah's representative at Washington are asking  
that a strip of Arizona be added to their State—  
which may be set down as a first-class case of in-  
jecting useless words into the Congressional Record.

## If He Isn't, Who Is?

From the Dallas News.  
Speaker Cannon rose in his place Monday  
morning to say that the majority must and shall rule.  
The dictum sounds far enough, but the trouble with  
it is that the Speaker seems to think he is the  
majority.

## Only a Matter of Time.

From the Christian Science Monitor.  
Let Commander Peary be of good cheer and re-  
member that "all right things come to him who will  
wait." The American Geographic Society has just  
given a gold medal to Col. Charles Challe-Long for  
his work in ascertaining the source of the Nile  
thirty-six years ago.

## Our ex-President's Way.

From the Louisville Courier-Journal.  
Last week, a quiet, unostentatious, self-  
effacing, publicity-shunning, shrinking modest, un-  
known, unphotographed, unsung, uncelebrated, re-  
tired, and unloved hunter contemplates approaching  
these shores clandestinely and surreptitiously, slip-  
ping unnoticed through the crowd at the pier, to  
seek the solace of solitude and indulge in pious, pa-  
triotic meditation.

## Illusions.

From Puck.  
It is true we labor under many illu-  
sions, but if these were to be done away  
with, we should hardly deem it worth  
our while to labor at all.

Almost none of the things which man  
so ardently pursues in the belief that  
they will make him happier is really  
capable of doing so, and yet it is need-  
ful that he keep up the pursuit for the  
sake of what he incidentally achieves  
in behalf of destiny.

The illusions we labor under partake,  
in fine, of the nature of sanitary con-  
ditions, though they chiefly affect the  
health of the spirit, and by that have no  
municipal functionary appointed to look  
vigorously after them. Nor, in fact, do  
they need any such, since Providence has  
been so kind as to see to it that illusions  
we shall always have.

## An Explanation.

From London Spare Moments.  
Mr. Bache—What is the reason you  
changed your name from my cuffs as you  
did formerly?

Laundress—Because you have begun  
making pencil notes on them.

"What difference does that make?"  
"The girls waste so much time in trying  
to make them out!"

## Happy.

From the Detroit Free Press.  
"He seems to be cheerful."  
"He is. He found a dollar in an old  
suit of clothes yesterday morning, and  
now he thinks his luck has turned."

## A LITTLE NONSENSE.

## PERENNIAL.

A-  
Round  
This time in  
Print we see a lot  
About that cherry tree.  
Beloved of yore  
By famous  
Men,  
It  
Is  
To-  
Day  
As  
Green as then.

## Often Happens.

"I guess I made a mistake. I wouldn't  
paint a doorstep for the old tenant."  
"Well."  
"And now I've got to paint the entire  
house for the new tenant."

## The Proper Way.

Mankind should praise an honest youth,  
commend him when he tells the truth,  
survey the damage with a smile—that is  
the good Fourth Reader style.

## High Hopes.

"I see that two lady explorers claim  
the record for mountain climbing."  
"Well, maybe now we can get a fuss  
worth watching."

## The Poor Poet.

But the poet sings  
Of vernal things;  
The poet is no wizard.  
He hopes to bring  
The gentle spring  
But only brings a blizzard.

## No Exorcism.

"Washington never told a lie."  
"And he never called anybody a liar  
that I know of. Then was dull times."

## Just the Contrary.

"Didn't I tell you to make the most of  
yourself, young lady?"  
"You did, professor, you did."  
"And here I find you squeezed into  
one of these tube gowns."

## His Reason.

"He says that Washington's Birthday  
is his favorite holiday."  
"Patriotic, is he?"  
"No; just stinky. The day calls for  
no valentines, turkey, or presents. He  
can get through it very nicely by read-  
ing the Declaration of Independence."

From the Baltimore Sun.

A man, according to Dr. Osier, is as  
old as his arteries—no less and no more.  
If that be true, we must rank Col. Henry  
Watterson, of the Louisville Courier-  
Journal, among the liveliest of American  
youngsters, despite the fact that he cele-  
brated his seventieth birthday on  
Wednesday, for his arteries are still filled  
with good red blood and the vigor of  
youth is yet apparent in his pulse beat.  
There is a sound middle-aged man, the  
colonel which mere years cannot dampen.  
He is always a bit younger than the  
average man—a bit more alert, a bit  
more brave, a bit more impatient, with  
solemn platitude and ancient dol.

But though he is thus for progress al-  
ways, no doubt he looks backward, now  
and then, as well as forward, and when  
he does so it must give him no little  
pleasure to review the work of his life.  
For more than forty years he has been  
one of the great editors of the United  
States—an earnest believer in the Demo-  
cratic ideal, a shrewd judge of men and  
measures, a courageous leader of public  
opinion. Right or wrong, he has invari-  
ably fought gallantly and honestly. He  
is no office-seeker and has never been  
one. He is to-day the archetype of that  
valiant and none too numerous clan.

A good way to judge a man is to seek  
the opinion of the 221. That test Col.  
Watterson is proved to be of noble  
stuff. There is no editor in the country  
to-day with greater influence among other  
editors; none whom the whole fraternity  
regards with greater affection and re-  
spect.

## A Washington's Birthday Party.

From Puck.  
At a Washington's Birthday party the  
guests should be arranged two by two  
to represent the 221. They should be  
the booming of business on the part of  
the gentlemen, and the ladies should bang  
their hair and circulate reports.

A cherry tree may be represented by  
the bows of the guests and the lips of  
the ladies. A dog might furnish the  
bark, and also delight the guests when  
he leaves.

Hens should be in evidence because,  
like Washington, they do not lie, and  
because they furnish the hatchet idea.  
The table, served with champagne and Sa-  
ragoga chips. The conversation should flow  
freely.

## A State of Things.

From Puck.  
Naturally, as time went on, and more  
and more men had their noses to the  
grindstone, the price of grindstones went  
up and was at length intolerable.  
Of course, there were not lacking false  
prophets whose chief concern it was to  
seek class against class, and who quickly  
took advantage of so fair an opportunity.  
"How long will you endure this wicked  
foretelling of the necessities of life?"  
cried some of these, while others, bolder,  
openly accused the grasping and mercen-  
less grindstone trust.

And the worst of it was the stupidity  
of the government, which condemned var-  
ious cheap substitutes for grindstones,  
on the ground that the public health was  
put in jeopardy.

## HOURS OF YOUTH.

The years of youth are far away?  
The years of youth are here! Today  
is one of youth's best days, the sun  
is shining warm, and children run  
and hither-skipper in the street.  
And everywhere their flying feet  
Make the heart glad, and everywhere  
Their laughing voices, tossed hair,  
And funny quips arouse our mirth;  
Youth is still here, it owns the earth!

You may feel old—no doubt you do,  
But, don't you know, you're only young  
You may have felt the burning tooth  
Of time, and may have lost your youth  
Somewhere 'yonder,' 'way back there.  
But there is youth left everywhere!  
The happy sparkle in the sun,  
The shining ripples laugh and run,  
And everywhere the birds sing clear:  
The years of youth are glad and here!

Somewhere beside a garden gate  
A youth and maiden stand and wait  
The while the sun sinks down, and down,  
And points of light in the far town  
Come out and twinkle in the night,  
And she looks up with eyes aghast  
Like stars and softly through the mist  
You hear a smooch—and she's been kissed!  
And smooches nearer and more near—  
The years of youth are now and here!

As long as this old earth shall whirl  
Some youth shall love the only girl;  
Before some cottage by the way  
Glad little folks shall run and play,  
And every day, and everywhere,  
Some little boy with toiled hair  
Shall run to meet his homing dad,  
And some one always shall be glad!  
Always, while laughter rings out clear,  
The years of youth are now and here!

—Houston Post.

## PEOPLE AND THINGS.

## Smallest Republic.

The smallest and oldest republic in the  
world is now passing through a difficult  
phase of its long history, a history which  
stretches back for more than fifteen cen-  
turies. Up to March 25, 1906, the council  
of sixty men who were elected for life  
to manage the affairs of the miniature  
republic of San Marino—only thirty-two  
miles square—was made up of nobles,  
bourgeois, and country folk in equal  
numbers, and class distinctions were  
maintained in the election of the two  
Presidents, one of whom was ever a  
noble and the other a commoner. But  
on this date a change took place, due  
to the fact that the government ceased  
to correspond with the democratic ideas  
of the youthful Sammarinese, who had  
learned from travel in other countries  
sufficient to cause them to agitate for  
reform. The aristocratic party prudently  
yielded, and it was decided by an over-  
whelming vote that henceforth the coun-  
cil should be elected by direct manhood  
suffrage, and that one-third of its mem-  
bers should retire every three years. As  
illiterates were allowed to vote—the  
making up of about 90 per cent of the  
total population of 11,000—San Marino now  
possesses perhaps the most democratic  
constitution in the world. Twice a year,  
in September and March, two new capi-  
tals are elected, and twice a year  
these are installed in office amid a dis-  
play of patriotism and good feeling that  
augurs well for the future of the little  
republic.

## Napoleon's Flag.

A curious relic of Napoleon has recently  
been presented to the Army Museum in  
Paris by Lord Archibald Campbell, in the  
flag which the former flew in the Isle of  
Elba during his captivity there. The  
custodian of the museum has placed the  
flag prominently in one of the rooms,  
where it is to be seen, a rather strange  
standard, which seems to have been in-  
vented by Napoleon, though some say it  
was in part suggested by that of Cosmo  
del Medici, a former sovereign of the  
island. It is square, white, and fringed  
with gold, and bears three gold balls  
and a diagonal sash stripe. The staff car-  
ries a white and scarlet scarf. Napoleon  
does not seem to have used this flag else-  
where than in Elba, where he was a de-  
throned and captive monarch. In France,  
although he was always his emblem  
and were embodied on his state robes,  
his standard was the tricolor.

## A Dog Soliloquist.

From Montclair, N. J., comes a dis-  
patch in regard to a collie dog named  
Sammy, the property of one Ludwig  
Carlson, that is a self-educated tenor  
soliloquist probably without equal in dog  
musical circles. Every morning when he  
begins ringing Sammy takes up a position  
hard-by and proceeds with a tuneful  
accompaniment. He blends a musically  
voice with the deep notes of the bell and  
is always in exact tune with the me-  
tall sounds which issue from the belfry.  
At noon the collie makes tracks for a  
lumber plant in the neighborhood, where  
he accompanies in perfect harmony the  
whistles that sound the midday hour.  
Sammy also accompanies with equal fa-  
cility the town curfew bell at 9 o'clock  
in the evening. Those who have studied  
the dog's performances say that in the  
beginning his voice was somewhat harsh  
and not infrequently cast in the wrong  
key, but that with tireless practice and  
dog-like devotion he has rounded into an  
accomplished vocalist.

## Nicknames of States.

The nicknames of States are: Alabama,  
Land of Flowers; Arkansas, Bear State;  
California, Golden State; Colorado, Cen-  
tennial State; Connecticut, Nutmeg  
State; Delaware, Blue Hen State; Flor-  
ida, Peninsula State; Georgia, Cracker  
State; Illinois, Sucker State; Indiana,  
Hoosier State; Iowa, Hawkeye State;  
Kansas, Sunflower State; Kentucky, Blue  
Grass State; Louisiana, Pelican State;  
Maine, Pine Tree State; Maryland, Old  
Line State; Massachusetts, Old Bay State;  
Michigan, Wolverine State; Minnesota,  
Gopher State; Mississippi, Bayou State;  
Missouri, Bullion State; Montana, Singed  
Cat State; Nevada, Silver State; New  
Hampshire, Granite State; New Jersey,  
Garden State; New York, Empire State;  
North Carolina, Tarheel State; Ohio,  
Buckeye State; Oregon, Webfoot State;  
Pennsylvania, Keystone State; Rhode  
Island, Little Rhody; South Carolina,  
Palmetto State; Tennessee, Volunteer  
State; Texas, Lone Star State; Utah,  
Mojave Bee State; Vermont, Green Moun-  
tain State; Virginia, Old Dominion; West  
Virginia, Panhandle State; Wisconsin,  
Badger State.

## Looking for a Clew.

From the Chicago News.  
"Hey, there!" yelled the motorman to a  
pedestrian. "Get off the track!"  
But he yelled in vain.  
The pedestrian was a detective and  
heeded not the yell.  
Away down deep in his heart he knew  
that he had never been on the track.

## Elasticity of Truth.